

Message Text

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PAGE 01 DAMASC 01203 020552Z
ACTION SY-05

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 NEA-10 ISO-00 OC-06 CCO-00 SYE-00
/034 W

-----085005 020554Z /21

P 011538Z MAR 78
FM AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 7059
AMEMBASSY ATHENS PRIORITY
AMEMBASSY AMMAN PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L DAMASCUS 1203

DEPT FOR SY/OPS/T; ATHENS FOR OIC/TSO

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: ASEC
SUBJECT: ACR INSTALLATION - DAMASCUS

REF: A. ATHENS 01082, B. STATE 051562

1. THE ONLY ALTERNATE MEANS OF RAPID SHIPMENT IS AIR FREIGHT. HOWEVER SHIPMENT BY AIR FREIGHT WOULD MEAN THAT ITEMS COULD REPEAT COULD BE INSPECTED BY CUSTOMS. EVEN IF CRATES WERE LABELED "POUCHES", AIRPORT CUSTOMS MAY DEMAND INSPECT SINCE SYRIANS DEFINE POUCH AS A POUCH BAG NOT CRATES. THE SAME WOULD APPLY TO GOODS BEING TRUCKED IN AND CRATES WOULD HAVE TO BE LEFT AT CUSTOMS WAREHOUSE UNTIL CLEARED. IN ADDITION, TIME FACTOR WOULD BE AT LEAST THREE WEEKS FROM DEPARTURE BELGIUM TO ARRIVAL DAMASCUS.

2. WHILE PARA 1 TECHNICALLY APPLIES TO ITEMS CROSSING BORDER FROM JORDAN (MAC TO JORDAN), CUSTOMS OFFICIALS AT BORDER HAVE ALLOWED "CRATE POUCHES" TO COME THROUGH UNINSPECTED WHEN TRANSPORTED IN U.S. EMB VEHICLE AS IN CASE OF SKYLINK.

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3. REQUEST EMBASSY AMMAN COMMENT AS TO FEASIBILITY SHIPPING AS DIP POUCH VIA COMMERICAL MEANS TO AMMAN SO THAT IT COULD BE TRUCKED UP TO DAMASCUS.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.
MURPHY

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NNN

Message Attributes

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